

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 26-58 are pending. Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for reconsidering and withdrawing the rejections of claims 1, 26-40, 45-50 and 56 as being anticipated by Hansson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,565,919), and of claims 41-44 and 51-54 as being unpatentable over Hansson et al. in view of Andersen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,720,913). Applicants additionally thank the Examiner for acknowledging the priority claim.

I. Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner and her supervisor for the Personal Interview with the undersigned and his associate, Eric Robins. Therein, Applicants explained the distinction between the present invention and the invention of MacQueen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,399,670), and the Examiner explained that the existing claim language did not necessarily recite the structured surfaces in the embossing rollers. Applicants agreed to amend the independent claim to more clearly recite this feature.

II. MacQueen et al.

Claims 1 and 26-58 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by MacQueen et al. and/or under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MacQueen et al., alone or in view of one or more of Petry (U.S. Patent No. 3,196,030), Eby et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,903), Nishimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,216,251), Schmid et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,116), Greten et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,498,309), and James et al. (6,354,915).

However, as noted on the Interview Summary, Applicants respectfully submit that MacQueen et al. does not teach pressing a structured surface into the lacquer layer. In particular, at column 3, beginning at line 11, MacQueen et al. teaches to provide the substrate with a “macroscopic texture” by utilizing a “roll coater” to apply and spread the coating mixture on the substrate, as well as pull or split the coating from the substrate to produce the “macroscopic texture.” There is neither a teaching nor suggestion to provide the roller coater of MacQueen et al. with embossing surfaces, and pressing the roller coater (with embossing surfaces) into the lacquer to produce the structured surface.

As none of the secondary references cure the deficiencies of MacQueen et al., Applicants respectfully present that each of the present claims are allowable over the cited art.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below

Respectfully submitted,



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